

Press Release

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT Office of Economic Development



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EDUCATION
“Preparing Now,
Building for the Future”

EFFICIENCY IN
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“Growing and Sustaining
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STEWARDSHIP
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QUALITY LIVING
“Safeguarding What is
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County Citizens”

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Startup Maryland rolls into Harford County, engages entrepreneurs with a pitch

(Havre de Grace, MD) - - The atmosphere is lively and supportive as a group of business, government, and industry leaders are on hand to encourage five entrepreneurs as they prepare to pitch their business idea to TEDCO and Startup Maryland. A charter bus, complete with a custom retrofitted studio, is the hot spot today as Pitch Across Maryland 2.0 made its way to Harford’s host site, the GroundFloor on Pulaski Highway in Havre de Grace.

The launch party served to share information about entrepreneurial resources available to innovators. Prior to today’s event, entrepreneurs were provided coaching, guidance and support from mentors and other leaders from TEDCO, MD Department of Business & Economic Development as well as active angel/venture capital investors. The 2013 edition of Pitch Across Maryland is the second annual state-wide tour and celebration of entrepreneurship and innovation communities.

“Harford County is proud of its efforts resulting in the event today, as well as our Economic Development Director, Jim Richardson, winning the ‘2013 Innovator of the Year’ award from *The Daily Record*,” said Jill McClune, Vice President of Contracts & Federal Compliance for Avon Protection Systems, Inc., representing the Economic Development Advisory Board and the HBIC Board. “The GroundFloor, where we are located was launched with a focus on IT, app development, and cyber security entrepreneurs. Entrepreneur’s Edge and the Harford Business Innovation Center have been expanding their services with HBIC having its first technology manufacturing start up tenant. These three initiatives anchor the foundation for our growing entrepreneurial ecosystem in the County. We are pleased to have Startup Maryland and TEDCO witness this talent and innovation first hand,” added McClune.

The Pitch Across Maryland is intended to shine the spotlight on entrepreneurs, innovations and resources that exist just under the radar, but have the potential to ignite the next high growth companies.

(more)

“Harford County is seeing an increase in entrepreneurial activity and the ecosystem we have seen in other regions of the country is in the development stages in northeastern Maryland, “ said Jim Richardson, Harford County Economic Development Director. “Startup Maryland is a way to showcase the many great ideas and concepts that are being developed in the County by people who are willing to put their creativity and hard work to the test.”

The ideas pitched are unique and innovative. They include anything from educational software application to green innovation such as veterans composting to a youth interactive website for under 21 activities to allergen-free modeling material for pediatric patients.

“Thinking outside the box is what we want to encourage,” said Karen Holt, manager of the Chesapeake Science & Security Corridor who oversees the GroundFloor, the collaborative workspace recently launched in Harford and available 24/7 to startups and entrepreneurs. “We need to promote creative work environments with access to resources that can move an idea, a concept or a business plan to the next level.”

Randy Rippin, President of RTR Technologies, Board Member of Northeastern Maryland Technology Council, and board member of HBIC, provided motivation as he shared tech wisdom acquired in his 30 years of experience in managing and participating in computer and information systems and design, software engineering and operations development teams, and concentrating in computerized simulation modeling and analysis. He’s worked with various federal agencies including Department of Homeland Security in developing, supporting, and using modeling and simulation to support border management.

Participants’ pitches were videotaped today and will be posted on Maryland DBED’s website where the public can view the pitches and vote for their favorite through various social media efforts.

Pitch Across Maryland 2.0 culminates on Friday, September 27, 2013 at the Promenade at Under Armour with an Innovation Celebration.

“Wrapping the Pitch Across Maryland tour at Under Armour is intended to inspire entrepreneur participants and supporters to consider what their dreams can become, “stated Michael Binko, CEO of kloudtrack and founder/co-chair of Startup Maryland. “The Under Armour story, while globally known now, began as another Maryland Startup working hard to find its path forward,” added Binko.

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“Preserving Harford’s past. Promoting Harford’s future.”